United Nations A/56/433

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 October 2001
English
Original: Russian

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 166
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 3 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Heads of Government of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in connection with the acts of international terrorism perpetrated in the territory of the United States of America on 11 September 2001, adopted on 28 September 2001 in Moscow (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a General Assembly document under agenda item 166.

(*Signed*) Sergei **Lavrov**

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Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Heads of Government of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States

The Heads of Government of the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, gathered in Moscow for the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States, firmly condemn the unprecedented act of international terrorism perpetrated in the territory of the United States of America on 11 September 2001, and sincerely express deep sympathy to all the victims and to the families and friends of those who perished. We stress that the brazen challenge of the terrorists must be collectively rebuffed by the international community.

Today international terrorism has become one of the primary threats to security and stability in the world. There is a need to move from political declarations to concrete action, and to work out a strategy and mechanism for long-term international cooperation to ensure the effectiveness of antiterrorist measures. Such measures should be carried out in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in strict observance of the norms of international law. They must be designed not only to prevent a repetition of the tragedies and neutralize terrorist centres and their leaders, but also to eliminate the breeding ground for terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism.

Particular attention should be paid to measures to block the financing of terrorist and extremist organizations and groups, and these efforts should aim to ensure both the security of the State itself and its own nationals, and, to an equal extent, that of other States and their nationals.

The centre for the coordination of all-round antiterrorist cooperation among States, including cooperation at the regional level, should be, in the first place, the United Nations, and its Security Council.

The States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which are implementing a range of measures, on a coordinated legal basis, to combat international terrorism, offer an example of consistent regional cooperation in this sphere. The antiterrorist centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States has been established and has started work. We intend to enhance the level of mutual trust and efficiency in the work of the security bodies and special services of member States in order to make antiterrorist cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States more successful.

We confirm our readiness to take part in the efforts of the international community to establish a global security system capable of withstanding the new threats and challenges, and to this end to cooperate closely with all States, international organizations and regional structures.

Moscow, 28 September 2001